



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Stands Up for Workers' Rights

House victory on overtime pay for working Americans

Washington, DC – Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) stood with workers and families in Wisconsin's Third District today, voting to protect the overtime rights of millions of American workers. The amendment, which passed 223 to 193, halts the implementation of the Bush Administration's new regulation that strips overtime rights and pay from millions of workers.

"This is a real victory for American workers," said Rep. Kind, a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee. "The regulations mean longer hours and fewer jobs for American workers. And they mean a pay cut that American workers cannot afford. Today's vote to block these regulations will hopefully put a stop to the largest middle class pay cut in years."

The vote came on an amendment to fund the Department of Labor for the fiscal year that begins October 1. The legislation now goes to the Senate for a vote. Last year, the House voted in favor of blocking the Administration from instituting these harmful regulations. Despite the expressed will of both the House and the Senate, the majority leadership stripped the amendment from the final bill.

"We overcame opposition today and we did the right thing," continued Rep. Kind. "Now, the Senate needs to finish the job. They've had bipartisan support for this proposal in the past, and I hope that they won't allow special interests to trump the American worker on this issue."

According to analysis by the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute, up to six million workers are at risk to lose their eligibility for overtime pay under the new rules, which alter the classification for workers who qualify for overtime, including nursery school teachers, short-order cooks, reporters, administrative staff in financial services firms, and IT employees, to name a few.

"Among the large number of families for whom overtime pay constitutes roughly one-quarter of their incomes, these changes will have immediate and harmful consequences," said Kind. "Without overtime pay, these families will struggle to pay their mortgage, health insurance premiums and co-payments, utility bills, and even groceries. By passing this measure, millions of hard-working Americans will get the pay that they deserve."